

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER  
S. RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

*To the Secretary of the Senate:*

PN79-2, the nomination of Kristen M. Clarke, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.

NOMINATION OF CHIQUITA  
BROOKS-LASURE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is generally my policy to defer to a President and to allow them to choose their Cabinet, provided the nominees are qualified and will follow the law. Even though I may have disagreed with President Biden's nominees ideologically, I have voted for many of his nominees. This includes Ms. Andrea Palm for Deputy Secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services. Unlike many Senators who voted against virtually all of President Trump's nominees, it is my philosophy that a President should be able to select those whom he wants to serve in his administration, provided that they are qualified and meet the most basic of tests.

President Biden has nominated Ms. Chiquita Brooks-LaSure to be Administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS. I have met with the nominee and appreciate her commitment to our shared priorities, including lowering prescription drug costs in a bipartisan manner and maintaining essential medical services for rural Americans. I also remain committed to oversight of the executive branch, including CMS, to uphold our system of checks and balances. If Ms. Brooks-LaSure is confirmed, I look forward to working with her on these shared priorities and others as a senior member of the Committee on Finance. Ms. Brooks-LaSure has decades of health care experience, including at the Office of Management and Budget, on the House of Representative's Ways and Means Committee, at the Department of Health and Human Services, and in the private sector. Ms. Brooks-LaSure is qualified to serve as Administrator of CMS, and I personally do not have concerns about her nomination despite ideological differences.

However, I opposed Ms. Brooks-LaSure's confirmation out of the Com-

mittee on Finance at the request of Senator JOHN CORNYN of Texas. On April 22, 2021, the Finance Committee voted 14 to 14 on Ms. Brooks-LaSure's nomination, with all Republican committee members opposing moving the nomination forward. This effort was to give Senator CORNYN time to work with the Biden administration to address concerns about the CMS recent revoking of their section 1115 Medicaid waiver. I have opposed advancing other nominees of both parties in the past as part of my oversight responsibilities since it is one of the few tools we have in the Senate to extract answers from the executive branch. The Biden administration took an unprecedented action to revoke without consultation the State's Medicaid waiver. By supporting Senator CORNYN's effort, I was hopeful the Biden administration could adequately address Texas's concerns. To date, there has not been progress made; therefore, I again opposed advancing this nomination, not with an intent to permanently block her confirmation, but as an exercise of Congress's check on the executive branch in hopes that it will engage with Senator CORNYN in good faith to resolve this matter that is so important to his home State.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, it is a solemn honor to recognize National Police Week. Each year, we dedicate this week to express our admiration and gratitude to all of the law enforcement officers working to keep us safe. We also take this time to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty over the past year.

Law enforcement officers face many challenges in their mission to protect and serve. I greatly admire members of the law enforcement community who remain steadfast amidst the dangers of their noble profession.

To all the law enforcement officers across the State of Mississippi, I want to say to you that I am in Washington, DC, as your Senator to support you and to work to ensure you have what you need to do your job. You are truly our hometown heroes. You are the thin blue line keeping our families and our communities safe.

The loss of any officer deeply affects entire communities beyond their own department, and the ramifications for their family and friends are heart-breaking.

This Police Week, we honor and mourn three heroes from Mississippi, officers who died in the line of duty last year.

Monroe County Deputy Sheriff Dylan Scott Pickle, 24, died on July 26, 2020, while on duty after a vehicle struck him during a safety checkpoint operation. Dylan, a decorated veteran awarded three medals for his heroism in Syria, knew at an early age that he wanted to serve his community and his country. An Amory native and an

Itawamba Community College graduate, Deputy Pickle's life of service was cut short soon after earning a promotion within the sheriff's department. He leaves behind his mother, a sister, a brother, and stepsister.

Simpson County Sheriff Deputy James Harold Blair lost his life on July 12, 2020, after a subject he was transporting fatally wounded him. This 77-year-old grandfather served in law enforcement honorably for more than 50 years in Simpson County, Lincoln County, Pike County, and Louisiana. He even worked as a crossing guard for his grandchildren's school. Deputy Sheriff Blair leaves behind a large grieving family, including his wife, 3 sons, 4 daughters, 17 grandchildren, and 48 great-grandchildren.

Correctional Officer Marshall Lee "Bem" London, Jr., 66, of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, passed away May 18, 2020. A 16-year veteran of the sheriff's office, Bem is among the tragic number of law enforcement officers who succumbed to COVID-19 last year while serving the public. A dedicated family man, Deputy London is survived by his children and grandchildren.

As a lasting tribute, the names of these three brave officers will be added this year to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC.

In addition to these recent losses, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial will now also bear the names of three DeSoto County sheriff's deputies who died in the line of duty 123 years ago. Deputy Sheriffs Henry R. Campbell, William C. Cooper, and Carter I. Jones lost their lives on May 18, 1898, while attempting to arrest a father and son wanted for four murders. Even after more than a century, we still remember loss and honor their service.

Then and now, our law enforcement offices face tremendous dangers as they work to ensure the public safety and enforce the law. Today, all officers must deal with unprecedented challenges, pressures, and scrutiny. Supporting our law enforcement ought to be uncontroversial. Unfortunately, that is not always the case.

As we mark National Police Week, let us embrace the memories of these fallen officers as a cause to redouble our commitment to supporting law enforcement. I assure you that I will continue to be an advocate for law enforcement professionals and do my very best to honor the legacy of all those lost in the line of duty.

To the families of Deputy Pickle, Deputy Blair, and Officer London, I know you have faced enormous loss. I want you to know that you are continually in our prayers.